

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, each document generating device including:

means adapted for receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via an associated data network, restriction data corresponding to a selected information filter;

means adapted for acquiring usage data limited by the restriction data in accordance with the selected information filter, the acquired usage data being representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the acquired usage data includes, in accordance with the selected information filter, at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage ~~dated~~data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

means adapted for receiving, from ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator via the associated data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of ~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data;

means adapted for locally storing ~~accumulated~~the accumulated usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations as accumulated usage data;

means adapted for locally storing received report period data;

an interval counter adapted for outputting time data corresponding to a preselected reporting period interval;

reporting means adapted for automatically periodically outputting, via the data network, the usage data to the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the time data and without input from the associated accounting administrator so as to include a timed output of the accumulated usage data ~~accumulated over~~acquired during the preselected reporting period interval;

means adapted for receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

means adapted for resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the accumulated usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

4. (Currently amended) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the accumulated usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

5. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

6. (Currently amended) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data.

7. (Currently amended) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 6 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data include means for selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

8. (Currently amended) A method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via an associated network, restriction data corresponding to a selected information filter;

acquiring usage data limited by the restriction data in accordance with the selected information filter, the acquired usage data being representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the acquired usage data includes, in accordance with the selected information filter, at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage ~~data~~ data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

receiving, from ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator via ~~the~~ associated data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of ~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data;

locally storing ~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations as accumulated usage data;

locally storing received report period data;

outputting time data corresponding to a preselected reporting period interval;

automatically periodically outputting, via the data network, the accumulated usage data to the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the time data and without input from the associated accounting administrator so as to include a timed output of the accumulated usage data ~~accumulated over~~acquired during the reporting period interval;

receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the accumulated usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

11. (Currently amended) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the accumulated usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

12. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

13. (Currently amended) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data.

14. (Currently amended) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 13 wherein the ~~means adapted for~~ selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data ~~include~~includes selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, each document generating device including:

means adapted for receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via an associated data network, restriction data corresponding to a selected information filter;

means adapted for acquiring usage data limited by the restriction data in accordance with the selected information filter, the acquired usage data being representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the acquired usage data includes at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage ~~dated~~data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

means adapted for receiving, from ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator via ~~at~~the associated data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of ~~accumulated~~acquired usage data;

means adapted for locally storing ~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations as accumulated data;

means adapted for locally storing received report period data;

an interval ~~counter~~counter adapted for outputting time data corresponding to a preselected reporting period interval;

reporting means adapted for automatically periodically outputting, via the data network, the accumulated usage data to the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the time data and without input from the associated accounting administrator so as to include a timed output of the accumulated usage data ~~accumulated over~~acquired during the reporting period interval;

means adapted for receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

means adapted for resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the accumulated usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the accumulated usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 20 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data include means for selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

22. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via an associated data network, restriction data corresponding to a selected information filter;

acquiring usage data limited by the restriction data in accordance with the selected information filter, the acquired usage data being representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the acquired usage data includes, in accordance with the selected information filter, at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage ~~data~~ data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

receiving, from an~~the~~ associated accounting administrator via a~~the~~ associated data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data;

locally storing ~~accumulated~~the acquired usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations as accumulated usage data;

locally storing received report period data;

outputting time data corresponding to a preselected reporting period interval;

automatically periodically outputting, via the data network, the accumulated usage data to the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the time data and without input from the associated accounting administrator so as to include a timed output of the accumulated usage data ~~accumulated over~~acquired during the reporting period interval;

receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of reset signal.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the accumulated usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the accumulated usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

26. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 27 wherein the ~~means adapted for selecting~~ parameters for periodically outputting the accumulated usage data ~~include~~includes selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.